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C L A R E   R U R A L   D I S T R I C T

in the

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF WEST SUFFOLK

A N N U A L   R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L   O F F I C E R   O F   H E A L T H

for the year

1 9 6 5



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health for the Rural  
District of Clare, in the County of West  
Suffolk, for the year ended 31st December,  
1965.

Public Health Department,  
Severals House,  
Newmarket.

October, 1966.

To the Chairman and Members of  
the Clare Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1965.

The Birth Rate for the first time in almost twenty years was appreciably higher than that for the country as a whole. This may be partly accounted for by the limited influx of young married people into the district.

The Death Rate was almost the same as that for England and Wales.

The Infant Mortality Rate was slightly higher than the national average but owing to the very small numbers of deaths concerned this fact had no statistical significance.

The incidence of infectious disease was generally low.

The Public Health staff at Sainsbury's Abattoir were all immunised against Tetanus during the year.

I wish to express my appreciation of the help afforded me in compiling the Report by the Clerk of the Council and the Chief Public Health Inspector.

My thanks are also offered to the Chairman and all members of the Public Health Committee for their help and encouragement throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,  
Your obedient Servant,  
A. FARNILL MORGAN  
Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

1. (Figures in brackets throughout the Report relate to the previous year.)		
Area of the District	(49,360 acres)	49,360 acres
Number of Parishes	(24)	24
Rateable Value	(£203,946)	£208,961
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	(£787)	£834
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Book.	(2,931)	3,130
Number of unoccupied houses according to Rate Book.	(234)	205
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	(June 1964 9,600)	June 1965 9,750
Population 1961 Census	(8,815)	8,815

2. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

- (a) Medical Officer of Health, who also serves other districts.
- (b) Senior Public Health Inspector :- Mr. H.A. Smith (appointed November 1944) who also holds the office of Engineer and Surveyor.

Mr. R.J. Blandamer obtained another appointment and left the Council's service in August, 1965.

Mr. W.J. Black (commenced duties with the Council in September 1965), who also holds the office of Building Inspector.

- (c) A Senior Meat Inspector and seven authorised officers are appointed for the purpose of whole-time meat inspection at the Little Wratting Abattoir.

3. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>				<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>						
Legitimate .. .. .. ..	92	76	168	(136)								
Illegitimate .. .. .. ..	6	2	8	(4)								
	<u>Total</u>	<u>98</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>176</u>	(140)							
Live birth rate per 1,000 population .. .. ..			18.1	(14.6)								
Corrected birth rate (Comparability factor 1.13) .. ..			20.4	(16.5)								
Live birth rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales).. ..			18.0	(18.4)								
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births .. ..			4.5	(2.8)								
<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>				<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>						
Legitimate .. .. .. ..	-	1	1	(6)								
Illegitimate .. .. .. ..	-	-	-	(-)								
	<u>Total</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	(6)							
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths .. .. ..			5.6	(41.1)								
" " " " " " " (Eng. & Wales) .. .. ..			15.7	(16.3)								
<u>TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS</u>				<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>						
Legitimate .. .. .. ..	92	77	169	(142)								
Illegitimate .. .. .. ..	6	2	8	(4)								
	<u>Total</u>	<u>98</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>177</u>	(146)							
<u>DEATHS</u>				<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>						
		75	49	124	(109)							
Death rate per 1,000 population .. .. ..			12.7	(11.3)								
Corrected death rate (Comparability factor 0.88) .. ..			11.2	(10.4)								
Death rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales) .. ..			11.5	(11.3)								
<u>INFANT MORTALITY</u> - Deaths of infants under one year of age.												
				<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>						
Legitimate .. .. .. ..	3	1	4	(3)								
Illegitimate .. .. .. ..	-	-	-	(-)								
	<u>Total</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	(3)							
<u>INFANT MORTALITY RATES</u>												
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births .. ..			22.7	(21.4)								
" " " " " " " (Eng. & Wales) .. ..			19.0	(20.0)								
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births .. ..			23.8	(22.1)								
<u>NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE</u>												
Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births .. ..			11.4	(21.4)								
<u>EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE</u>												
Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births .. ..			5.7	(21.4)								
<u>PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE</u>												
Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births .. ..			11.3	(61.6)								
<u>MATERNAL MORTALITY</u>												
Number of deaths (including abortion) .. .. ..			..	Nil	(-)							
<u>RATES FOR PREVIOUS YEARS</u>				<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	
Adjusted birth rates	14.1	17.7	16.8	16.1	16.0	16.4	16.5	20.4				
Adjusted death rates	9.6	10.9	9.1	10.4	9.0	10.3	10.4	11.2				

4. CAUSES OF DEATH

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis (all forms) .....	1	0	1 (0)
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	2	0	2 (0)
Cancer (all types) .....	15	8	23 (28)
Leukaemia, aleukaemia .....	0	2	2 (2)
Diabetes .....	0	1	1 (1)
Vascular lesions of nervous system .....	5	5	10 (13)
Heart disease (all forms) .....	25	14	39 (29)
Other circulatory disease .....	3	4	7 (4)
Influenza .....	1	0	1 (0)
Pneumonia .....	2	4	6 (8)
Bronchitis .....	5	0	5 (6)
Other diseases of respiratory system.....	0	1	1 (0)
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	1	0	1 (3)
Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea .....	0	2	2 (1)
Hyperplasia of prostate .....	0		0 (1)
Other defined and ill-defined diseases....	6	7	13 (6)
Congenital malformations .....	2	0	2 (1)
Motor vehicle accidents .....	2	0	2 (3)
All other accidents .....	4	1	5 (2)
Suicide .....	1	0	1 (1)
	75	49	124 (109)

5. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Scarlet Fever .....	5	10	15 (66)
Whooping Cough .....	3	1	4 (6)
Measles .....	41	30	71 (3)
	49	41	90 (75)

6. TUBERCULOSIS.

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	
1. Cases at commencement 1965	20	7	1	3	31
2. First notified during 1965	1	-	-	-	1
3. Restored to Register	-	-	-	-	-
4. Added by Transfers	-	1	-	-	1
5. Cases removed	3	2	-	-	5
6. Remaining at end of 1965.	18	6	1	3	28

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS SUPPLIED BY YOUR CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

A. WATER SUPPLIES

Mains water is supplied to your area by the West Suffolk Water Board. The main source of supply to your area being from boreholes at Great Wratting, and its quality has been satisfactory.

Water Supply to dwellings at the end of the year.

PARISH	WATER SUPPLIES FROM PUBLIC MAINS				OWN SUPPLY		Total houses in area
	Domestic Occupied	Empty	Standpipes Occupied	Empty	Occupied	Empty	
Barnadiston	30	7	4	1	2	-	44
Gt. Bradley	57	5	11	5	2	1	81
Lt. Bradley	22	-	-	-	4	-	26
Cavendish	203	4	42	3	20	2	274
Clare	461	-	62	26	12	3	564
Cowlinge	86	2	18	1	-	4	111
Denston	39	1	18	3	-	-	61
Depden	53	1	4	1	4	1	64
Hawkedon	44	2	4	3	1	2	56
Hundon	152	2	34	7	2	4	201
Kedington	392	2	44	7	7	3	455
Lidgate	75	2	9	7	-	2	95
Ousden	58	1	18	3	2	3	85
Poslingford	44	2	21	1	11	3	82
Stansfield	63	6	21	-	2	5	97
Stoke-by-Clare	65	1	7	-	87	3	163
Stradishall	74	2	10	2	3	-	91
Gt. Thurlow	66	1	12	-	4	-	83
Lt. Thurlow	72	1	18	8	1	-	100
Wickhambrook	214	4	53	20	26	-	317
Withersfield	84	2	36	4	8	1	135
Wixoe	30	3	2	2	3	-	40
Gt. Wratting	52	7	9	2	1	1	72
Lt. Wratting	42	2	11	1	2	-	58
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,478</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>3,355</b>

## B. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

### Clare and Cavendish

The disposal works installed in 1956 are situated about half a mile East of Clare, and will treat sewage from a population of 2,400. Sewage is pumped from both centres of population to the works, the final effluent from which has remained reasonably satisfactory, although at times has been below River Authority standard.

The Council purchased further land adjoining the works to accommodate extensions deemed necessary in view of house building now taking place and proposed at both Clare and Cavendish. Meanwhile a small section of sewer at Snow Hill and modifications to pumps are in hand prior to submission of plans for enlarging the present works and alterations to the pumping main system in Clare. The scheme drawings, which will be ready for submission to the appropriate Ministry next year, will include for sewerage Poslingford, Snow Hill and Chilton, and be designed for a population of up to 6,000.

### Kedington and Great Wratting

These works, completed in 1963, are situated about half a mile East of Kedington to which sewage is pumped from both villages. The works are designed to treat sewage from a population of 2,100 including the Risbridge Home. Analysis of final effluent shows the works to be giving satisfaction.

### Hundon

Disposal works for this village were first in use last year. They are designed to treat sewage from a population of 600. Final effluent results are satisfactory.

### Stoke-by-Clare

Disposal works to accommodate sewage from a population of 730 came into use in December of last year. Part of the village is seweraged by a gravity sewer, and the Chapel Street area sewage is pumped to the works. Effluent results are satisfactory.

### Withersfield

Work of laying sewers and building works proceeded during the year. It is anticipated that the scheme will be completed in mid 1966.

### Wickhambrook and Cowlinge

This scheme provides for the pumping of sewage from Cowlinge to works at the Duddery, Wickhambrook, where sewers are now being laid. Construction of the disposal works is in hand. Plans are in preparation for the Cowlinge sewer and pumping main, and it is anticipated they will be discussed by the Council next year.

### Lidgate and Ousden

The laying of sewers in both villages is in progress and preparations for building the disposal works at Lidgate are being made. Sewage from a pumping station near Park Farm, Ousden, will be delivered to the Lidgate works.

### Wixoe

Ministry approval was given to the laying of sewers and building of disposal works to serve the Church area of this parish. The work is to commence early next year.

### Great and Little Bradley, and Great and Little Thurlow.

Tenders for the laying of sewers and building a central works at Little Thurlow were received late in the year. It is possible that work could commence in March 1966.

### Stansfield, Hawkedon, Denston and Stradishall.

Early in the year the Council accepted a proposal to drain these four villages to central works between Stansfield and Denston. Plans are being prepared and will include for sewers to be laid at Wickham Street and along the main Bury St. Edmunds road to Clopton.

### Little Wratting

A section of sewer to serve fifteen houses adjoining the Haverhill U.D.C. boundary was laid last year. Sewage is treated at the U.D.C. disposal works.

### Maintenance.

A mobile gang of three employees are maintaining your schemes. They are also engaged on Council estate grass cutting. When the Lidgate and Wickhambrook sewerage schemes come into use this number will be increased to four full-time employees. There are fifteen small sewage disposal works on Council housing sites also maintained by this gang, and the number of operatives needs revision as further village schemes come into use.

## C. PUBLIC CLEANSING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL

The question of a weekly collection was discussed by the Council late in the year. At present a kerbside fortnightly collection is in being. Three fulltime employees are engaged, together with the partial services of a further employee.

Some collection of waste paper is done with the refuse "round" and sold unbaled. An amount of trade refuse is also collected in Clare upon pre-payment by traders.

Tipping of refuse takes place at Kedington and Denston where two disused quarries are being filled up. This method of uncontrolled tipping causes insect, paper and smell nuisance and the tips harbour vermin. Other and more hygienic methods of disposal are being considered.

Septic tanks on Council house estates are regularly cleared by Contract, and during the year 270 tanks of private houses were cleared by Contract at a reduced rate of ten shillings per load of 750 gallons.

The question of disposal of such contents presents the Contractors with some difficulty and very often nuisance arises. These will be eliminated when the enlarged Clare Sewage Disposal works are completed as they make provision for the acceptance and treatment of this septic sewage.

#### D. INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following is a statement of the number and nature of inspections made by the Department during the year under various Acts, Orders and Byelaws in force within the area.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH NUISANCES

Improvement Grants ..	..	..	..	..	196
Housing (defects and nuisances)		..	..	..	12
Housing Acts ..	..	..	..	..	22
Drainage installations and Building Byelaws		..	..	..	335
Housing maintenance ..	..	..	..	..	75
Sewage Disposal ..	..	..	..	..	49
Factory Acts ..	..	..	..	..	6
Factory Outworkers ..	..	..	..	..	4
Infectious Diseases ..	..	..	..	..	12
Verminous premises ..	..	..	..	..	8
Refuse collection and disposal		..	..	..	44
Caravans ..	..	..	..	..	24
Petroleum Acts ..	..	..	..	..	20
Rodent Control (including farms) and L.A. premises		..	..	..	60
Slaughterhouses and Knackers Yards (Meat)		..	..	..	6
Food and Meat Inspection ..	..	..	..	..	114
Food Hygiene (Food premises inspections)		..	..	..	10
Water Supply ..	..	..	..	..	7
Other matters ..	..	..	..	..	33
Town and Country Planning ..	..	..	..	..	70
Public Health nuisances ..	..	..	..	..	38
			Total		<u>1145</u>

#### HOUSING IMPROVEMENTS

The operation by the Council of Discretionary and Standard Grant Schemes in accordance with the Housing Act, have contributed in no small measure to the amount of improvement work and modernisation that continues to be carried out to properties in the area.

Since the scheme commenced 399 cottages have been improved with the aid of discretionary grants and 103 by way of standard grants.

#### PRE-WAR COUNCIL HOUSES

Grant aid by the Ministry has assisted the Council in adding baths, water closets and hot water systems to 206 houses. A further 32 have been improved and are awaiting drainage connections to village sewerage schemes now in progress.

A further 18 are to be improved as and when main sewers are available and 26 houses in Clare are to be provided next year with internally accessible water closets.

#### E. PROCEDURE UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Housing complaints investigated .....	6
Informal notices sent to Owners .....	6
Complaints abated .....	6
Houses rendered fit after informal action .....	6
Statutory notices served .....	Nil
Prosecutions .....	Nil

#### PROCEDURE UNDER THE HOUSING ACT 1957.

Houses on which demolition orders were made .....	Nil
Houses on which Closing Orders were made .....	Nil
Houses demolished by Owners .....	3
Undertakings to make fit accepted .....	2
Houses made fit .....	5

#### NEW HOUSING AND HOUSING PROGRESS

PARISH	By the Council		By Private Enterprise
	Houses	Bungalows	
Clare		10	8
Cavendish			1
Cowlinge			1
Depden			1
Great Wratting			1
Hundon			4
Kedington			154
Ousden			1
Stoke-by-Clare		3	1
Wickhambrook			9
<b>Totals</b>		<b>13</b>	<b>181</b>

Three bungalows were also built under the Council's Home Ownership Scheme.

At the end of the year the Council owned 268 pre-war dwellings and 419 post-war, and 11 were under construction.

#### COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are none in the area.

#### CARAVANS.

There are a number of individual caravans in the area controlled by an annual consent under the Town and Country Planning Act and every effort is made to see that essential services are available to safeguard the health of the occupants.

No licences are in being under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

#### PET SHOPS AND BOARDING KENNELS

There are none in the area.

#### ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

No action was called for under the Clean Air Act, 1956.

#### NOISE ABATEMENT

There was no call for action under the Noise Abatement Act, 1960.

### OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The number of premises registered at the end of the year was :-

Offices .....	5
Retail shops ....	13
Fuel storage depots	1
Total	<u>19</u>

Some premises do not come within the scope of the Act and there may be others not registered which will be noted upon inspection proceeding.

### ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963

This Act came into operation early in 1964 and provides for licensing annually of boarding establishments for cats and dogs. Qualifications in the Act appear to exempt the one or two establishments in your area where such animals are known to be kept, and accordingly there are no licensed establishments.

### PETROLEUM ACTS AND REGULATIONS.

There are 77 licensed petrol storage installations in the area.

Two new licences were granted during the year.

**F. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD**

Food Premises in the area

There are 97 food premises in the area, the majority being general grocers, hotels and public houses.

Inspections reveal a generally acceptable hygiene standard including mobile food vans which are increasing in number.

Hotels and Inns .....	43
General Stores .....	40
Bakeries .....	4
Butchers Shops .....	5
Greengrocers .....	1
Fish Shops .....	1
Cafes and Restaurants .....	3

No ice cream is manufactured in the area and the following premises are registered under the Food and Drugs Act 1955 for the sale of pre-packed ice cream :-

General Stores and Shops .....	25
Public Houses .....	4

Offensive Trades

There is one licensed establishment at the Little Wratting Abattoir for the trades of Blood Drying, Fat Melting and Rendering, and Gut Scraping.

Licensed Slaughterhouses and Knackers Yards.

There is one licensed slaughterhouse and two Knackers Yards in the area. (One Knackers Yard closed down in October). Humane methods of slaughtering are used.

Licensed Slaughtermen.

There are 58 licensed slaughtermen. 12 new licences were granted during the year.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed and inspected	Nil	Nil	378,826	Nil
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :</u>				
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	943	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	97,255	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	Nil	Nil	26	
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>				
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	6	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	17,745	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	Nil	Nil	4.6	
<u>Cysticercosis:</u> There were no cases during the year				

The bulk of the rejected meat is purchased by a contractor (outside your District) and processed into animal food, fertilizers, glues, greases etc.

G. FACTORIES ACT 1961

1. Inspections.

Part 1 of the Act

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors.)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	23	4	-	-
(iii) Other premises where Sec.7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	24	5	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found - Nil.

3. Outwork (Sections 133 and 134)

Number of Outworkers :-

Making of wearing apparel - 12  
Carbon on to jig assembler - 1



